

# Selected BLS Economic Indicators



## Altoona

### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)**.

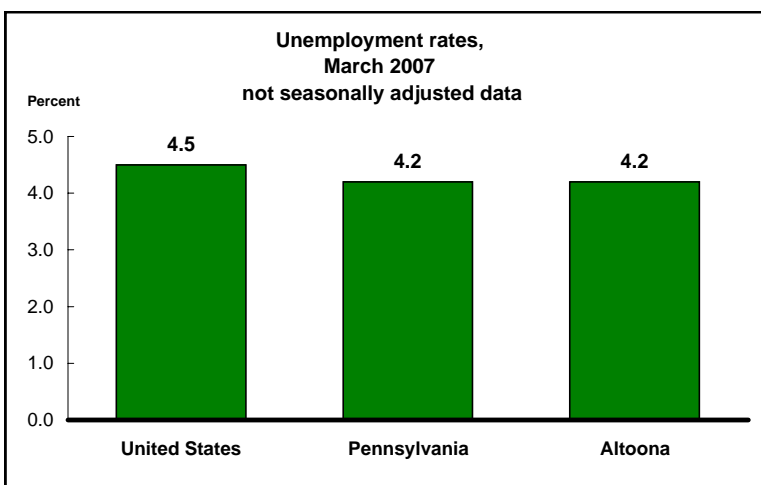
| Consumer Price Index<br>(1982-84) = 100                  | April<br>2006         | April<br>2007         | Percent<br>change         |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>                       |                       |                       |                           |
| U.S. City Average  | 201.5                 | 206.686               | 2.6                       |
| Northeast  | 214.7                 | 219.501               | 2.2                       |
| Northeast (size class B/C)*                              | 127.3                 | 129.563               | 1.8                       |
| <b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</b> |                       |                       |                           |
| U.S. City Average  | 197.2                 | 202.130               | 2.5                       |
| Northeast  | 211.0                 | 215.802               | 2.3                       |
| Northeast (size class B/C)*                              | 127.6                 | 129.856               | 1.8                       |
| <b>Producer Price Index, U.S.<br/>(1982 = 100)</b>       | <b>April<br/>2006</b> | <b>April<br/>2007</b> | <b>Percent<br/>change</b> |
| Finished goods   | 160.7                 | 165.8                 | 3.2                       |
| All commodities  | 164.3                 | 171.2                 | 4.2                       |
| Industrial commodities                                   | 168.8                 | 173.7                 | 2.9                       |

\*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)  
Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

### Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area          | March<br>2006 | March<br>2007 | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States | 7,255.0       | 6,913.0       | -342.0        | -4.7              |
| Pennsylvania  | 317.1         | 264.1         | -53.0         | -16.7             |
| Altoona       | 3.4           | 2.7           | -0.7          | -20.3             |

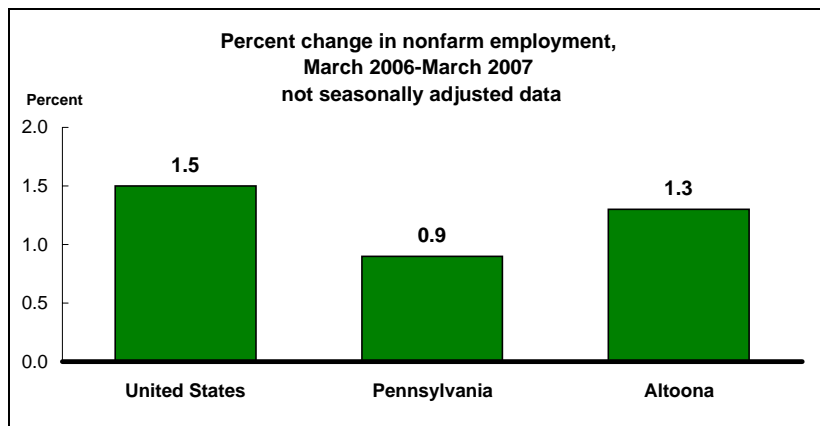
Most recent numbers are preliminary.



### Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area          | March<br>2006 | March<br>2007 | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States | 134,868.0     | 136,835.0     | 1,967.0       | 1.5               |
| Pennsylvania  | 5,697.8       | 5,751.3       | 53.5          | 0.9               |
| Altoona       | 61.0          | 61.8          | 0.8           | 1.3               |

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



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**The Altoona, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Blair County in Pennsylvania.